

Mineral Industry Surveys

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IRON ORE IN DECEMBER 2011

U.S. mine production of iron ore in December 2011, on a daily average basis, was 149,000 metric tons (t), 3% less than that for the prior month and slightly less than that of December 2010. Average daily production in December 2011 was 3,980 t less than that of November 2011. U.S. mine production was 53.6 million metric tons (Mt) in 2011 compared with 49.9 Mt in 2010.

Average daily shipments in December 2011 of 195,000 t were 17% more than those of the prior month and 31% greater than those of December 2010. Shipments were 54.2 Mt in 2011 compared with 50.6 Mt in 2010. Mine stocks at the end of December 2011 were 1.39 Mt less than the stocks held on November 30, a 33% decrease. U.S. net exports of iron ore in November 2011 were 882,000 t, with exports being almost three times imports.

TABLE 1
U.S. PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF IRON ORE^{1,2}
(Exclusive of ore containing 5% or more of manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Production		Shipments	
	Monthly	Year to date	Monthly	Year to date
2010, December	4,660	49,500	4,600	49,200
2011:				
January	4,100	4,100	3,230	3,230
February	3,920	8,010	699	3,930
March	4,350	12,400	2,070	6,000
April	4,360	16,700	4,870	10,900
May	4,840	21,600	5,120	16,000
June	4,520	26,100	5,280	21,300
July	4,700	30,800	5,860	27,100
August	4,780	35,600	5,460	32,600
September	4,400	40,000	5,630	38,200
October	4,440	44,400	4,910	43,100
November	4,600	49,000	5,010	48,100
December	4,630	53,600	6,040	54,200

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

²Excludes byproduct ores.

TABLE 2
U.S. PRODUCTION, SHIPMENTS, AND STOCKS OF IRON ORE IN DECEMBER^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

State	Production		Shipments ³		Stocks ⁴	
	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010
Michigan	1,170	1,200	1,700	1,220	1,480	2,220
Minnesota	3,460	3,450	4,340	3,380	1,380	1,170
Total	4,630	4,660	6,040	4,600	2,860	3,390

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Excludes byproduct ore.

³Includes rail and vessel.

⁴Includes usable (marketable) material at mines, concentrators, pelletizing plants, and loading docks. Excludes stocks of crude ore at mine and concentrates at agglomerating complexes.

Note: An imbalance of production and shipments compared with stock changes indicates an inventory adjustment at the mines of 15,100 metric tons.

TABLE 3
CANADA: SHIPMENTS OF IRON ORE^{1, 2}

(Thousand dry metric tons)

Period	Newfoundland and Labrador	Quebec	British Columbia	Total
	2010:			
November	2,620	1,990	10	4,620
December	1,640	1,440	5	3,090
January–December	19,000	17,000	93	36,100
2011:				
January	695	1,060	4	1,760
February	1,220	890	2	2,110
March	1,320	1,600	4	2,930
April	1,070	1,380	6	2,450
May	1,450	1,940	7	3,400
June	1,160	1,650	8	2,820
July	1,290	1,930	4	3,230
August	2,040	1,730	6	3,770
September	1,650	1,610	6	3,260
October	1,390	1,460	6	2,850
November	1,210	2,340	5	3,550

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes production from steel plant waste oxides.

Source: Natural Resources Canada.

TABLE 4
PRODUCTION OF PIG IRON AND RAW STEEL IN THE UNITED STATES, BY TYPE OF
FURNACE¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Pig iron production, blast furnace		Raw steel production			
	Monthly	Year to date	Basic oxygen furnace		Electric furnace	
			Monthly	Year to date	Monthly	Year to date
2010:						
November	2,470	27,500	2,220	25,500	3,950	45,300
December	2,340	29,900	2,580	28,100	4,060	49,300
2011:						
January	2,400	2,400	2,680	2,680	4,510	4,510
February	2,490	4,890	2,200	4,880	4,200	8,710
March	2,790	7,680	2,490	7,360	4,580	13,300
April	2,550	10,200	2,300	9,660	4,480	17,800
May	2,870	13,100	2,490	12,100	4,270	22,000
June	2,820	15,900	2,520	14,700	4,420	26,500
July	2,520	18,400	2,750	17,400	4,620	31,100
August	2,610	21,100	3,060	20,500	4,370	35,500
September	2,540	23,600	3,080	23,600	4,150	39,600
October	3,010	26,600	2,630	26,200	4,140	43,800
November	2,990	29,600	2,680	28,900	4,040	47,800

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: American Iron and Steel Institute.

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF IRON ORE, BY COUNTRY OF DESTINATION AND TYPE^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons)

Country of destination and type of product	2010	2011				
		1st quarter	2nd quarter	3rd quarter	October	November
Belgium	107	1	2	(3)	--	(3)
Canada	8,110	871	2,180	2,280	634	574
China	725	259	832	707	255	678
Finland	35	--	--	--	--	--
France	236	--	--	296	80	54
Germany	341	--	1	80	(3)	--
Mexico	188	1	1	7	(3)	33
Serbia	44	--	--	--	--	--
Singapore	5	--	--	(3)	--	(3)
Spain	156	--	159	28	--	--
Switzerland	--	--	--	46	--	--
Other ⁴	11	5	9	5	(3)	(3)
Total	9,950	1,140	3,180	3,450	969	1,340
Concentrates	391	64	72	176	51	196
Coarse ores	259	130	597	546	147	175
Fine ores	78	51	55	44	11	10
Pellets	9,220	890	2,460	2,680	760	957
Briquettes	5	(3)	--	(3)	--	--
Other agglomerates	(3)	--	1	(3)	(3)	--
Roasted pyrites	1	1	(3)	1	(3)	(3)
Total	9,950	1,140	3,180	3,450	969	1,340

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes agglomerates.

³Less than ½ unit.

⁴Includes all countries receiving less than 5,000 metric tons in any month during the 2-year period.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE, BY COUNTRY AND TYPE^{1,2}
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

Country of origin and type of product	2011					2010
	November		January–November			January–November
	Thousand metric tons	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Value ³ (dollars per ton)	Thousand metric tons
Argentina	--	--	74	11,000	149.30	--
Brazil	195	32,100	353	55,100	156.08	478
Canada	159	24,500	3,680	584,000	158.68	4,200
Chile	44	8,540	165	28,300	171.70	131
China	--	--	(4)	11	1,830.00	--
Finland	--	--	4	263	65.75	--
France	--	--	--	--	--	(4)
Germany	--	--	(4)	2	1,060.00	(4)
Greece	--	--	--	--	--	3
Mexico	--	--	27	2,240	83.04	111
Norway	(4)	20	(4)	100	298.87	5
Peru	--	--	14	1,510	107.79	7
Russia	--	--	(4)	3	372.29	606
South Africa	--	--	147	28,800	196.14	--
Spain	--	--	--	--	--	4
Sweden	20	4,030	62	12,300	198.77	23
Trinidad and Tobago	--	--	8	3,650	455.63	120
Turkey	--	--	--	--	--	(4)
Ukraine	--	--	(4)	4	395.89	95
Venezuela	39	6,550	278	49,300	177.44	223
Total	457	75,700	4,820	777,000	161.37	6,000
Concentrates	132	23,200	722	115,000	159.27	569
Coarse ores	6	1,250	42	8,660	206.26	36
Fine ores	94	15,100	713	107,000	150.43	498
Pellets	225	36,100	3,290	536,000	163.03	4,900
Briquettes	--	--	12	3,960	329.83	4
Other agglomerates	--	--	34	5,830	171.59	--
Roasted pyrites	--	--	4	263	65.75	(4)
Total	457	75,700	4,820	777,000	161.37	6,000

-- Zero.

¹Data, with the exception of the dollars per ton column, are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes agglomerates.

³Customs value. Excludes international freight and insurance charges.

⁴Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE IN NOVEMBER 2011^{1,2}
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

Country of origin	Type of product						Total
	Concentrates	Coarse ores	Fine ores	Pellets	Briquettes and other agglomerates	Roasted pyrites	
Brazil	49	--	79	66	--	--	195
Canada	--	--	(3)	159	--	--	159
Chile	44	--	--	--	--	--	44
Norway	--	--	(3)	--	--	--	(3)
Sweden	--	6	14	--	--	--	20
Venezuela	39	--	--	--	--	--	39
Total	132	6	94	225	--	--	457

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes agglomerates.

³Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 8
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF PELLETS, BY COUNTRY¹

Country of origin	2011					2010
	November		January–November			January–November
	Thousand metric tons	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Value ² (dollars per ton)	Thousand metric tons
Brazil	66	11,700	66	11,700	176.89	76
Canada	159	24,500	3,220	525,000	162.74	3,890
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	606
Trinidad and Tobago	--	--	--	--	--	120
Ukraine	--	--	--	--	--	95
Venezuela	--	--	--	--	--	107
Total	225	36,100	3,290	536,000	163.03	4,900

-- Zero.

¹Data, with the exception of the dollars per ton column, are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Customs value. Excludes international freight and insurance charges.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 9
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE,
BY CUSTOMS DISTRICT^{1,2}
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

Customs district (code no.)	November	January–November	
	2011	2011	2010
Baltimore, MD (13)	150	1,440	1,980
Buffalo, NY (09)	--	(3)	--
Chicago, IL (39)	167	645	513
Cleveland, OH (41)	91	2,030	2,540
Columbia-Snake (29)	--	--	21
Detroit, MI (38)	(3)	16	(3)
El Paso, TX (24)	--	18	44
Houston–Galveston, TX (53)	--	20	76
Laredo, TX (23)	--	1	--
Los Angeles, CA (27)	--	(3)	--
Minneapolis, MN (35)	--	--	(3)
Mobile, AL (19)	--	13	179
New Orleans, LA (20)	44	616	642
New York, NY (10)	(3)	(3)	(3)
Norfolk, VA (14)	--	1	1
Ogdensburg, NY (07)	--	1	8
Philadelphia, PA (11)	--	4	--
Port Arthur, TX (21)	--	--	3
San Francisco, CA (28)	--	5	--
St. Albans, VT (02)	--	1	(3)
Tampa, FL (18)	5	15	--
Total	457	4,820	6,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes agglomerates.

³Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 10
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF PELLETS,
BY CUSTOMS DISTRICT¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Customs district (code no.)	November	January–November	
	2011	2011	2010
Baltimore, MD (13)	134	1,180	1,980
Buffalo, NY (09)	--	(2)	--
Chicago, IL (39)	--	10	30
Cleveland, OH (41)	91	2,030	2,530
Houston–Galveston, TX (53)	--	--	76
Mobile, AL (19)	--	--	120
New Orleans, LA (20)	--	70	162
Total	225	3,290	4,900

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.